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ises to be the largest one ever held, and being in a most interesting locality, can hardly fail of being both enjoyable and profitable. The great thing is to become acquainted with each other, and with the excursions and receptions arranged for, abundant opportunity for this will be given. Every one should come prepared to give some item to the club, the meetings of which are wholly informal. The first meeting will be held in the room assigned to biology, on Thursday morning at nine o'clock, the second day of the Association. No one interested in botany should fail to register and receive the badge of the club.

THE "HERBARIUM NUMBER" brought in so much material that it was impossible to crowd it all into our thirty-two pages. Nearly eight pages were held over and are given to our readers in this number. The stress of good material has become so great that we have been compelled to enlarge this number to thirty-six pages. Our contributors must not be deterred by this fact from continuing to send articles, but it explains the occasional delay in their appearance, a necessity regretted by no one more than the editors.

THE ONLY addition (so far as we know) to be made to the list of Engelmänn's botanical papers, published in this journal for May, 1884, is his elaboration of the Euphorbiaceæ in the Bot. Mex. Bound. Survey. If the writer of the sketch of Engelmann in the *Pop. Sci. Mo.* for June, who remarks that the list is incomplete, can add anything to it, he will confer a great favor on botanists by designating the omissions.

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## OPEN LETTERS.

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### Concerning Labels, etc.

While we are bringing together our various herbarium notions, let me say a word about labels. The point I chiefly wish to make is the importance of printing them legibly, and in good Roman type, on paper that is not too stiff. I think that one who has ever had much experience in attaching labels to the sheets will agree with me that one that curls upon itself when wet with the paste is a nuisance. Again, as the rule is to preserve the original collector's labels when sent, is it too much to ask of one in the field to make these as neat as possible? It is perfectly practicable to take with one on an excursion evenly cut slips of paper, instead of odds and ends of envelopes. Of style in labels I have spoken elsewhere; surely it exhibits the "man himself" as much as any style under heaven. I have in mind now certain examples always conducive to ophthalmia.

A word, too, concerning the forwarding of plants for exchange or identification. Do not snip off the tip end of a raceme and forward it to a botanist, without leaves, fruit, or underground parts. In fact, do nothing slovenly. I have had, and that recently, mildewed, discolored fragments sent me, and that by so-called botanists, tied together with strings, with long ribbons of paper wrapped around them for labels, and all rolled up in newspapers. With a beginner one is patient, but he loses his temper when one bedecked with collegiate degrees is guilty of such an offense. Particularly is such an occurrence exasperating when the eviscerated fragments misrepresent plants which are *desiderata*.

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